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Mr. Jones

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Engineering
MONTHLY NEWS LETTER

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: Under a revision of the Regulations it is no :
: longer possible to pay temporary per diem employees for :
: holidays unless service is actually rendered. When :
: service is rendered on a holiday the payroll voucher must:
: include a statement to the effect that such services were:
: necessary and were performed. :
:.....
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: Engineers are requested to supply the Washington :
: office with their official and private telephone :
: numbers. :
:.....

The Bureau of Agricultural Engineering has been called on to act in an advisory capacity to the Forest Service on technical phases of the work being done by the Civilian Conservation Corporation. The Division of Drainage and Erosion Control will help plan the gully control work for flood protection, and prepare plans and specifications for soil saving and check dams. L. A. Jones and C. E. Ramser have been devoting considerable time during the past month to the organization of the work. F. O. Bartel and R. R. Drake have prepared special reports on projects at the request of State agencies. Mr. Bartel has been assigned to the district foresters office at Louisville, Kentucky in connection with this work. Frank Irons has been transferred from the Division of Mechanical Equipment to take charge of the engineering experiments at Statesville, during Mr. Bartel's absence. W. D. Ellison has been recalled from furlough leave at Bozeman, Montana, and has been assigned to the district forester's office at New Orleans to assist with the gully control work.

On June 14, L. A. Jones conferred with members of the staff at the University of Missouri at Columbia, Mo., relative to the Little River Drainage District Rehabilitation report which has been completed except for minor editing. Messrs. Jones, Ramser, and Holman delivered addresses at the Bethany field day, June 19, at which meeting a large number of visitors attended. Mr. Jones conferred with State representatives at Urbana, Ill., relative to emergency gully control work and with the District

Forest Inspector and Mr. Bartel at Louisville, relative to Mr. Bartel's work. Mr. Jones then attended the 27th annual meeting of the A.S.A.E. at Purdue University June 21 to June 24 and delivered a paper, "The New Rural Credit Plan as Affecting Land Reclamation." After C. E. Ramser delivered his address at Bethany he accompanied Mr. Ellison to New Orleans where they conferred with the district forester relative to Mr. Ellison's work. After inspecting the Temple farm Mr. Ramser proceeded to Gallup, New Mexico, where he will spend about 10 days with representatives of the Bureau of Chemistry and Soils and Indian Service planning Soil Conservation work on the Indian Reservation lands.

During the last week in May J. G. Sutton inspected the Illinois River Drainage Districts which are keeping operation records in connection with the study of seepage. The inspection was made during the crest of highest flood that has occurred on the river since 1926. The levees of 4 pumping districts failed, flooding nearly 25,000 acres. Since 1926 the grade and section of nearly all the levees have been built up with State and Federal aid and flood damage was much less than in 1926 when about 22 pumping districts were flooded. The levee of the Hartwell district broke at the pumping plant and washed away the building and severely damaged the foundation and two of the pumping units.

W. W. McLaughlin returned to Berkeley, June 16, after several weeks spent in Washington, D. C., planning the irrigation work for next fiscal year.

An exhaustive report on an economic survey of Farmers Irrigation District, Scottsbluff, Nebraska, made in March has been completed by P. A. Ewing and Wells A. Hutchins. Mr. Ewing left Berkeley the latter part of May for Oregon, where he is making economic surveys of a number of irrigation districts in need of financial rehabilitation.

A report on "Consumptive Use of Water by Native Plants Growing in Moist Areas in Southern California" giving results of work carried on by our Bureau in cooperation with the California Department of Public Works, was completed by Messrs. Blaney, Taylor, Young and Bloodgood and submitted for publication by the State.

J. C. Marr spent the latter part of May in Utah in company with L. M. Winsor inspecting flood and erosion control works and areas requiring protection of this character. Mr. Marr has been requested to render assistance to the Forest Service and Boise project in the minor flood and erosion control work. Arrangements have been made for him to go over the watersheds of the Boise and Payette rivers with the superintendent of the Boise project and a representative of the Forest Service, for the purpose of deciding where this work had best be done and to formulate a plan of procedure.

Work at the Kootenai experiment station, Bonners Ferry, Idaho, in cooperation with the Geological Survey, was resumed May 1 by Lyman G. Youngs under the direction of L. T. Jessup. Soil tanks were planted to spring wheat. A map of a tract of approximately 30,000 acres was made showing areas that were saturated and areas that were too wet to plow, also areas of fall grain destroyed by early water. Another map showing the location of all winter wheat in the valley is being made. Soil sampling work has been started.

Wallace Ashby, on a tour of study of farm structures, visited the Cotton Ginning Investigations at Stoneville, Miss., during the latter part of May.

R. D. Marsden was at Stoneville the early part of June for the purpose of conferring with C. A. Bennett, of our Bureau, and Mr. F.L. Gerdes of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, and editing a report of cotton ginning investigations.

Three Texas A. and M. College graduates, accompanied by J. S. Mogford, Associate Professor of Agronomy, and Curtis Vinson, Director of Publicity at the College, were visitors at the cotton ginning and fiber laboratories on June 12. There are on a tour of observation of the practical workings of the cotton industry that will include visits to cotton ports, experimental stations, research laboratories and cotton mills of the United States, England, Belgium, Germany, Switzerland and France.

R. B. Gray left Washington June 16, to attend the American Society of Agricultural Engineers meeting in Lafayette, Indiana, where he read a paper on alcohol as a motor fuel. He stopped at Toledo en route to inspect the work which is being conducted at that point with tractors, trucks, and automobiles, using gasoline and alcohol gasoline blends as fuel.

Sugar companies in Colorado, Utah, and Idaho are encouraging their beet growers to adopt the mechanical blocking of sugar beets, according to E. M. Mervine. By this method it may be possible to materially reduce the hand labor usually required in thinning.

D. A. Isler reports that the Bureau of Entomology representatives in Mexico found that early plowing of irrigated lands results in a considerable decrease in the number of pink bollworms that survive the winter months in the field. These results are in accordance with earlier reports by Mr. Isler based on observations and tests made at Presidio, Texas.

E. D. Gordon has just made a trip to Bryan, Texas, where observations were made of the forage drier on the Ward Mooring Farms. The mower crush, a machine which crushes the stems of forage plants as they are cut in the field, was tested on the Ward Mooring Farms.

A paper on power requirements and effects on cotton yields of seed bed preparation was prepared by J. W. Randolph for the A.S.A.E. meeting at Purdue.

The response to the request for clippings relating to the work of the Department has been most gratifying, so many clippings being received that it has not always been possible to make acknowledgements. It is hoped that members of the staff will continue to send in clippings as they are very interesting and helpful.